



Implementation of the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI), Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) for Practitioner and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Services

The NCCI MUE processing will be implemented for practitioner and ASC services effective for claims processed on and after the remittance date of April 19, 2016 for fee for service claims.

MUEs are applied separately to each line of a claim, not to the total number of units for a procedure code on a single date of service. If the units of service (UOS) submitted exceeds the MUE value for the code on a claim line, the entire line will be denied. Practitioners and ASC providers may see new edit message, "809" that pertains specifically to NCCI MUE edits: 809 - 'CCI: Units of service exceeds medically unlikely edit'

Providers can expect to see denials due to MUE's on procedures that may have previously paid when billed in the same manner. With the implementation of MUEs, fee for service duplicate edits have been enhanced; therefore, claims that previously denied as duplicates may now deny via MUE or may deny as maximum services exceeded.

For some procedures (e.g. cholecystectomy), the MUE is an absolute limit. However, for other procedures, providers may occasionally report UOS in excess of the MUE value by reporting the same code on more than one line of the claim. Modifier usage is acceptable when medically necessary and supported by clinical documentation; however, appending a modifier will not override MUE denials.

The MUE value for applicable procedure codes is determined by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These edits are updated quarterly by CMS. For more information, please refer to the prior NCCI MUE notice on www.lamedicaid.com dated March 29, 2016 or visit the CMS Medicaid website, www.medicaid.gov.

Each Bayou Health plan is required to administer NCCI editing, but may have slightly different implementation schedules and/or billing policies related to the mandate. Please contact each plan for information specific to that plan.

For questions related to this information as it pertains to fee-for-service Medicaid claims processing, please contact Molina Medicaid Solutions Provider Services at (800) 473-2783 or (225) 924-5040.